Helipad near Sun Temple, Konark

2820. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has built a helipad within 2 Km. radius of the Sun Temple at Konark;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Archaeological Survey of India has asked the State Government not to use the helipad as it poses a threat to the security of the 13th Century World Heritage site; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action taken/proposed to be taken against such construction within a World Heritage site?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has requested the State Government of Orissa to shift the helipad to a distance of 5 Kms. away from the Sun Temple, Konark, to avoid any future damage to the ecology of the surroundings as well as to avoid air vibration of the helicopter which may affect the structure of the monument. The Government of Orissa has accordingly been instructed to identify another piece of land for shifting of the helipad.

Passengers stranded at Chennai Airport

2821. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international passengers of Air India were stranded at Chennai Airport recently and the Air India had totally failed to retrieve them for more than 14 hours in the airport itself whereas airlines like Malaysia Airlines, Singapore Airlines could give excellent facilities in a similar situation;

(b) whether it is due to system failure or human failure or both; and

(c) what are the special measures envisaged to meet such situations in future?